

I'm Susan Bliss, and I live in the West End.

I came to Portland over 10 years ago, in part because I loved the interesting and varied architecture and human scale of the area now known as the West End. For me, it defined Portland, and that is why I'm here today to advocate for historic preservation in that area. I would like to see two important additions made to the Draft Plan.

First, I would like to see a fourth Policy added under the West End subsection of Regional Center. It would be Policy 1.WE-4 and read:

*"Encourage the reuse, rehabilitation and seismic upgrade of underutilized buildings to increase the useable space and economic activity in the district so as to preserve and enhance the cultural and historical significance of the area."* (Vol. 1, p. 35)

Second, I request a new action item in the Action List for both Bureau of Development Services and Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, to create an additional policy, RC55, for the West End, to read:

*"Consider creating (and or) revising seismic regulations to allow for more incremental upgrades on a timeline of two to 15 years."* (Vol. 5, p. 92)

Finally, I want to thank staff and endorse the many changes that incorporate Historic Preservation language into the Plan's Policies, including Historic Preservation subsections that encourage reuse and incentives that will support the protection of historic and culturally sensitive resources. To list a few: thanks for a policy to protect existing and historic resources in the West End; for retaining a bonus allowance for historic preservations needs; for prioritizing the West End for an update of the Historic Resources Inventory, and for updating the Downtown Multiple Property Listing, which includes many West End buildings. And finally, thanks for including an action recommendation to advocate for the state historic rehabilitation tax credit.

Thank you.

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